Production of cotton in Gujarat

920. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of cotton in Gujarat has lowered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting adequate support price of cotton; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to satisfy the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The production of cotton in Gujarat has come down in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 as may be seen from the statement given below:

Year	Production ('000 bales of 170 kg. each)
1998-99	3903.0
1999-2000	2085.6
2000-01	1161.4

(b) During monsoon seasons of 1999 and 2000, Gujarat received deficient rains which resulted in drought-like situation and adversely affected the production of cotton in the State.

(c) During the current season, the prices of certain varieties of cotton in Gujarat have been ruling below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a central nodal agency, has been continuously purchasing cotton from 33 procurement centres opened in the State of Gujarat and has procured a total quantity of 199745 lint bales of Cotton of 170 kgs. each as on 26.2.2002. Further purchases are continuing.

(d) To protect the interest of cotton farmers the Government have taken several steps which include the following:

(i) Hiking of import duty from 5% to 10% (effective from 9.1.2002) to restrain imports;

(ii) Fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for different varieties of cotton during each season;

(iii) Undertaking price support operation through CCI;

(iv) Launching the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with four Mini-Missions having a total fund allocation of Rs. 593 crores with the objectives of increasing cotton production and productivity, transfer of technology, supply of certified seeds, improvement of marketing infrastructure and modernization/technological upgradation of existing ginning and pressing factories.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in States

921. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not yet adopted the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, which has been in operation since 2000;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made so far by Government to ensure that the scheme is implemented in all the States at the earliest, for the benefit of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Schcmne (NAIS) was introduced